

Neighbours

A part of the community since 1978 • Volume 8 • Number 1 • January 2005

The power of people



Employee volunteers of Pickering Nuclear ignored the cold weather to hit the pavement in search of change as employees came onto shift last month. In total, through various fundraising initiatives, Pickering Nuclear employees donated more than \$19,000 to the Million Penny Drive to help Durham families this past holiday season.

OPG employees make life better for Durham families

Employees of Ontario Power Generation's Darlington and Pickering nuclear stations have a strong tradition of contributing to Durham communities and families in need of a little extra help, both during the holiday season and throughout the year.

In 2004, OPG employees across Ontario gave \$1.8 million to charities of their choice through the OPG Charity Trust, which allows employees to contribute to their favourite charity organizations through automatic pay withdrawals.

In addition to the pay deductions, employees at Darlington and Pickering Nuclear went all out to ensure families in need throughout Durham Region were provided some assistance this past holiday season.

Both sites contributed significantly to two local fundraisers – the Durham Regional Police Food and Toy Drive and the Million Penny Toy Drive. In total more than \$25,000 was contributed between the two sites toward helping families-in-need across Durham.

At Darlington it took seven police vans to collect all the toys and food donated by employees while at Pickering volunteer employees were out working the parking lots to collect change for the Million Penny Food and Toy Drive.

"We got out there at 5:30 in the morning and started shaking pockets loose," says Scott Berry, an organizer of the Pickering Nuclear event. "There are about 40-plus people who volunteer."

In addition to the money collected in the parking lot, Scott says many employees across the plants have given up the traditional seasonal cookie and coffee hand-out from managers and instead that money goes to help the less-fortunate families. One cookie and coffee at a time, this effort raises about \$3,500 of the funding that goes to the Million Penny Toy Drive. All proceeds from Million Penny go to the Salvation Army and the Simcoe Hall Settlement House in Oshawa.

continued on page 2

in this issue

Community Commitment

A look back at Pickering Nuclear in 2004

pg. 2

Unit One Update

Major safety milestone is reached on the refurbishment of Unit 1 reactor

pg. 3

On the Wild Side

OPG's commitment to wildlife habitat programs earns recognition

pg. 4



The Durham Regional Police Toy and Food Drive feeds into a number of agencies, says DRPS representative Stephanie Powers. Civilian and police volunteers drive the seven vans that go around collecting the toys and food. The vans are donated by local dealerships and decorated for the occasion.

"We are a significant contributor to the Durham Regional Police Toy and Food Drive," says Kim Doyle, who heads up the Darlington campaign. This year almost \$4,000 in cash donations were made by employees in addition to the numerous unwrapped toys and food items dropped off in bins in the OSB and ESSB lobbies.

As well, unclaimed toys from the OPG Children's Christmas Party were donated.

"We have seven vans and we always send all of them to Darlington," Stephanie relates.

"Darlington has been taking part as long as I can remember," adds Kim. The Friday after pay day, volunteers get out stockings and stand at the gates asking for donations. "People empty out their change and bills too. We even had a few \$40 donations," she says.

Then, Kim and her two boys, Brad, 11 and Kyle, 8, headed to Zellers in Bowmanville, for a carefully calculated shopping spree. The store gives Kim a significant discount in the cost of the toys so she can get the most with the money donated. "We focus on younger children and teenagers," says Kim. "The middle-aged children are well-contributed through the bins in the lobbies."

Not all of the donations are financial though. John Kock, a Darlington employee volunteers with the Salvation Army Christmas hamper preparations each year and he saw a different way the plant could help. "So often we have to send the toys out without batteries because there are never enough," he relates. This year, John made sure children could use the toys they opened Christmas morning. He arranged to have Darlington Nuclear donate several boxes of batteries.

In addition to the Charity Trust and the Christmas season campaigns, year-round, employees look for opportunities to help those in need. Just recently Pickering employees raised \$7,000 for Herizon House, women and children's shelter during White Ribbon Week in support of putting an end to violence against women while at Darlington, collections were made for Denise House in Oshawa and Bethesda Woman and Children's Shelter in Bowmanville. "People here are always finding creative ways to help out," says Scott.



A year in review

Back to basics in 2004

Production of clean, safe, affordable and reliable energy. These are the tenets on which Ontario Power Generation operates.

In 2004, Pickering Nuclear continued to operate with these principles uppermost through our commitment to environmental programs and procedures, our strict adherence to safety and security standards and with austerity measures specifically enacted to bring OPG's cost of producing electricity lower.

In mid-2004, we began the refurbishment of Unit 1 at Pickering A, which will produce enough electricity for 350,000 homes with virtually no smog-producing emissions. The restart of that reactor later this year will further secure a reliable electricity supply for the province. Nuclear energy means less reliance on other forms of electricity generation which contribute to global warming.

Safe and secure operations of our plants are important to our community and to our employees. OPG's strong safety culture is inherent in everything we do. On November 24, Ontario Power Generation was presented with the President's Bronze Award of Excellence for Employee Safety from the Canadian Electricity Association. OPG was among only eight recipients of the CEA's President's Award, which is given to companies that demonstrate superior safety performance for the past year. The award was given to OPG in recognition of our ranking "in the top quartile for both All Injury Frequency and Severity Rates" for 2003.

This month, the Pickering A Return-To-Service team hit a safety milestone logging five million hours without a lost-time accident. This is reflective of the safety training and procedures in place at our plants and the strong working relationship OPG and our contractors share to ensure care is taken every step of the way as we progress with these significant projects.

To keep our plants secure and so our neighbours can always have peace of mind, we continue to make substantial investments in nuclear security.

Pickering Nuclear continued its support for local community initiatives such as the Rouge Valley Hospital Foundation and a whole host of charitable and service organizations. As this is written employees at Pickering and Darlington Nuclear are raising funds for the Tsunami victims in Southeast Asia. Our employees continue to serve as leaders in our communities through the Big Brothers and Sisters, Scouts Canada, business and minor sports organizations as well as serving with our hospitals and educational institutions across Durham Region. Pickering and Darlington Nuclear employee efforts for holiday toy and food drives meant more than \$25,000 worth of goods were delivered to families in need across Durham. Employees here also raised more than \$7,000 recently for Herizon House shelter for women and children.

OPG is committed to this community and so are the employees who work here. We are your neighbours at home and at work and we thank you for your continued support.

Pat McNeil
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Strategy and Support



Pickering Report Card: Third Quarter

Station safety is job one

Pickering Nuclear's safety performance continued to demonstrate the station's commitment to safe, secure operation of our facilities during the third quarter of 2004. Thanks in part to our employees' commitment to diligent operation of our stations, there were no reportable events or reactor trips during the third quarter. Pickering Nuclear had no spills of chemicals or other substances into the environment during that time period.

Radiation release from the station into the environment registered at background levels of 3.1 microsieverts exposure up until the end of the third quarter, 2004. This is the estimated amount of radiation exposure someone who lived, worked at, and ate food grown on the property line of the plant would receive. This compares with 70 microsieverts of radiation from a single chest x-ray or almost 2000 microsieverts the average Canadian receives every year from natural sources of radiation in the environment such as sunshine and produce.

Preventive maintenance and repairs conducted on the plant during the third quarter lowered the productivity rate at the Pickering stations during this period. Much like a car or house, extra care and maintenance now means a better return on investment in the long term. OPG is committed to ensuring our plants are maintained today to ensure reliability for years to come.

To view the full Pickering Nuclear report card, visit www.opg.com.

And then there were six

Unit 1 return to service will add to Pickering's current five operating reactors

The restart of the Pickering A, Unit 1 reactor will mean a more reliable supply of electricity for Ontario now and for the coming decade.

Just this one reactor, when up to full capacity, will be able to provide enough electricity to power a city of about 350,000 homes. Once Unit 1 is in operation, there will be six reactors in total operating at Pickering Nuclear's A and B plants. Combined, they will provide close to 15 per cent of the Province's electricity needs. That will leave just two reactors idle following the 1997 decision to lay up the four Pickering A units for refurbishment.

The Unit 1 project, which got the green light from the Ontario government last summer, is on target to be powered up this fall. In October, 2004, OPG announced the project, originally estimated to come in at \$900 million could potentially end up about 10 per cent higher. In part, the potential additional cost is due to a slower start and higher

labour cost during the summer months when skilled tradespeople are in high demand and at a premium.

Construction projects of this magnitude at a nuclear station are very challenging for a number of reasons: Much of the work takes place in a radiation environment, which necessitates special worker protections and limits productivity; many tasks are done in confined spaces, which is both challenging and time consuming; and work must be done to the highest quality and is subject to rigorous inspection and qualification.

However, additional resources have been added to the project and the target date for commercial operation of the reactor remains very close to the original September 2005 schedule. Unit 1 will be a valuable asset for Ontario's businesses and residents, boosting Ontario's ability to meet the demands of a growing economy and the needs of its citizens.

5 MILLION HOURS OF SAFE WORK

In December, the Pickering A Return to Service (RTS) team achieved 5 million hours worked without a lost-time injury (LTI).

As of December 23, regular OPG employees at RTS had worked 2,592,242 hours without an LTI and RTS contractors 2,412,882. This mostly reflects work done on the Unit 1 Return to Service.

By any measure, this is an impressive safety milestone, the more so because it was achieved in the context of a higher-risk construction environment, where hoisting, rigging, welding, and other activities are carried out within confined spaces. This milestone is a testament to the collaboration between regular OPG staff and contractors on the common goal of making safety the number one priority for anyone working on the return to service of Pickering A's nuclear units.

To put the achievement in perspective, 5 million hours worked without a lost-time injury is equivalent to a workforce of 100 people working 25 years without losing time because of injury.

The RTS organization embodies the OPG-wide demonstration of effective safety behaviours on the job.

Wildlife sanctuary in the city

International recognition for OPG's environment preservation

There is a place where eagles soar and dragonflies buzz, where bulrushes blow in the wind and woodland thickets stand protective of the small animals that live within their borders.

In fact, in Durham Region there are two such places where the living space of literally hundreds of animals and plants has been enhanced and preserved for future generations: They are the sites of Darlington Nuclear and Pickering Nuclear Generating Stations.

This past Fall, 2004 Pickering Nuclear was recertified through the international Wildlife Habitat Council in recognition of Ontario Power Generation's commitment to environmental stewardship and increases to native biodiversity.

"The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites and offers third-party validation of the programs companies like OPG put in place," explains Bob Hester, senior environmental technical engineer with OPG.

Darlington Nuclear was also certified two years ago under the same extensive process and expects to re-qualify again in 2005 with the Wildlife Habitat Council, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands.



OPG Senior Environmental Technical Engineer Bob Hester (middle) stands in one of many wildlife habitats managed and enhanced at Pickering and Darlington Nuclear through the efforts of countless OPG and community volunteers. With him are Pickering Nuclear employees Sylvie Dion, and Greg Mills who volunteer their time and expertise to help with naturalization efforts in the area.

During its certification process this fall, Pickering Nuclear was one of just three businesses nominated for the prestigious Corporate Habitat of the Year award. To be recognized as one of the top three sites from 109 organizations that received their certification this year was "a tremendous honour and a testament to the work of our employee and community volunteers," says Bob, who notes many local organizations dedicate many man-hours to helping with the preservation efforts.

At Pickering Nuclear, projects have included the naturalization of portions of Alex Robertson Park and Kinsmen Park; significant tree plantings and the establishment of wildflower gardens along the Waterfront Trail and in Alex Robertson Park. A network of 46 bird nesting boxes has been established in the park and at the Brock Woodlot. As well, controls have been put in place to protect local habitats against invasive species of bugs and plants that would eradicate other essential forms of wildlife.

At Darlington, a 7.5 km trail meanders through the site's more than 1,000 acre property filled with almost 900 different species of animals and plants. One study of the Darlington habitat showed a jump in the number of bird species breeding on the site from 41 species in 1978, prior to the existence of the generating station, to 63 breeding species in 1997. This is just one example of improvements attributable to site enhancements and modifications made by Ontario Power Generation in cooperation with community volunteer groups on the site.

"At Darlington Nuclear we strongly believe in OPG's commitment to sustainable development," explains Don Terry, public affairs manager for Darlington. "Simply put, we make sure the right choices are made for our environment and community today to ensure the best future for all. Nuclear energy is clean energy and when we're finished operating our station, we intend to leave our site and our community in a better state than when we arrived."

The impact of having two wildlife habitats like these within the GTA is more far-reaching than one might think, adds Bob. "Robert Bateman is an environmentalist and well-known naturalist who grew up in downtown Toronto. His first experience with nature was in a ravine near his house. That's where his environmental light was turned on – in a little woodlot close to home.

"One lady told me she has cancer and walking through the woodlot is the best therapy for her," he adds.

OPG is proud to be creating better habitats for our wildlife today while inspiring people to preserve the environment for our future.

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